

34695. ANTIDESMA NITIDUM Tulasne.*(A. moritzii Muell.)*

From Los Banos, Philippine Islands. Presented by Mr. C. F. Baker, University of the Philippines, College of Agriculture. Received December 9, 1912.

"One of the finest local shrubs, of good shape and covered with great numbers of pendent clusters of small berries which are long, bright red, finally black, and which are edible. This should make an important addition to ornamental shrubs for warm countries." (*Baker.*)

34696. FARADAYA SPLENDIDA Mueller.

From Bowen Park, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. Presented by Mr. William Soutter, secretary and manager, Queensland Acclimatization Society. Received December 13, 1912.

"A very handsome climber, native of the more tropical regions of Queensland. The outer bark of the plant is used by the natives for stupefying fish. The green bark is tied in small bundles, weighted with a stone, and dropped into holes where the fish abound. The fish immediately become affected and rise to the surface, where they are easily caught." (*Soutter.*)

Distribution.—The vicinity of Rockingham Bay, in Queensland, Australia.

34697. DIOSPYROS KAKI L. f.**Persimmon.**

From Seoul, Chosen (Korea). Presented by the American consul general, Mr. George H. Scidmore. Received December 16, 1912.

"A hardy persimmon tree of the 'sheep-nose' variety, growing in the compound of this consulate general." (*Scidmore.*)

"The 'sheep-nose' variety has such good keeping qualities that I have kept them until late Easter." (*Horace N. Allen.*)

34698. PERSEA AMERICANA Miller.**Avocado.***(P. gratissima Gaertn. f.)*

From Rome, Italy. Presented by Dr. Gustav Eisen, California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, Cal. Received December 16, 1912.

"The tree in question is in all probability about 100 years old, and though I do not know for certain, I think it likely to have been imported from Mexico by, or at least at the time of, Valadier, the French gardener and architect, who in the beginning of 1800 arranged the Pincio Garden. The tree is growing there in perfect vigor and health, perhaps about 40 feet high, and the trunk several feet in diameter. The variety is one which I have never seen on the Pacific coast of Mexico or Central America, the fruit being $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches long by $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide, pear shaped—that is, tapering toward the stalk end. This year there were 100 fruits or over, all arriving at perfect maturity in October and November, the last ones being picked about November 15. The earlier fruits are larger and may average from one-half inch to 1 inch more than the size given above, which refers to the late fruits. In quality this fruit is equal to the very best that I have eaten in Guatemala and Mexico and is of exquisite flavor. The seed is perfectly round, pale yellow-brown, and evidently perfectly developed. The variety is also characterized by its precocity, ripening before frost. It will succeed, without any doubt, in most parts of California, Arizona, southern Texas, and the Gulf States generally; in a word, in any territory extending from the northern limit of the hardiest orange southward—that means the San Joaquin and Sacramento Valleys in California, the Coast Range, etc. Introduced into this territory the tree would prove of immense value and would enter at once into active competition with the Mexican and island avocado now imported and sold at a prohibitive price." (*Eisen.*)